

# IOWA BIRD LIFE

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Winter 1987   Volume 58   Number 1



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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FRONT COVER: Groove-billed Ani, 24 October 1987. Photo by T. H. Kent.

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The IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *I.O.U. News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

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## INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other materials relating to birds and bird finding in Iowa should be sent to the editor. Accepted manuscripts will generally be published promptly, depending on space available, with the following absolute deadlines: 15 November for the Winter issue; 15 February for the Spring issue; 15 May for the Summer issue; and 15 July for the Fall issue. Most manuscripts will be refereed. All material should be typed double-spaced or hand printed in ink on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Authors should pattern their style after a current issue of the journal. If you want more detailed guidelines or advice regarding the appropriateness of your topic for *Iowa Bird Life*, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the editor.

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS OF IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

\*20-22 May 1988, Mason City

### FIELD REPORTS

Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the Field Reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to T. H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52240). An article describing the reporting process is also available.

Deadlines for receipt of field reports are as follows:

\*Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb)—3 March (W. Ross Silcock, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653)

\*Spring (Mar, Apr, May)—3 June (Robert K. Myers, RR2 Box 153, Perry, IA 50220)

\*Summer (Jun, Jul)—3 August (James J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50010)

\*Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov)—3 December (Carl J. Bendorf, 825 7th Ave, Iowa City, IA 52240)

### CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

\*Deadline for receipt of reports: 15 January. For forms and instructions write: W. Ross Silcock, Box 300, Tabor, IA 51653.

### IOWA BIRDLINE 319-524-3569

The birdline is a recorded summary of interesting recent bird sightings in Iowa. At the end of the report you can leave a message and report recent sightings. Be sure to give your name and phone number as well as the location of the bird and date seen. Call in as soon as possible after sighting a rare bird. Bob Cecil checks the reports daily and updates the recording on Monday, so make sure Sunday sightings are reported by Sunday night.

### I.O.U. NEWS

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors (J. Hank and Linda Zaletel, 715 West St., Colo, IA 50056).

### MATERIALS AVAILABLE

The following materials may be obtained by writing the editorial office (Iowa Bird Life, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52240):

\*Order form for back issues of *Iowa Bird Life*: send self-addressed stamped envelope.

\*Field Checklist of Iowa Birds—1987 Edition: 10 for \$1.65, 25 for \$3.50, 100 for \$11.60, postpaid. Also available at annual meetings for \$0.10 each.

### REPORTING NEBRASKA BIRDS

Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of De Soto N.W.R., should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005. Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa.

ISSN 0021-0455

## MEET AN IOWA BIRDER: PEARL KNOOP

THOMAS J. STAUDT

Pearl Knoop is a lister. She says, "Your interest is in making lists, in individual bird studies, and many other things. I'm interested in making lists." Pearl's list making started with her first bird of the spring in 1935. Her brother asked her about a bird in the yard and she identified it as a "chewink" (Rufous-sided Towhee). She had no binoculars and used Chester A. Reed's *Bird Guide*, a gift she had given her mother. Her previous birding knowledge came from things her father had mentioned and from sitting on the porch on Sundays counting the birds that flew by. Her subsequent knowledge came through her own efforts.



Pearl was born on Halloween, 1905, just west of Marble Rock in Floyd County. In 1929, she graduated from Iowa State Teachers College, and on two occasions in the early 1930s she went to the Dakotas to teach. During the second stay in the Dakotas she purchased binoculars by mail order from Sears and Roebuck. Those binoculars and the Reed guide are long gone; now Pearl uses 10 power Baush and Lomb's and prefers the latest edition of Peterson's field guide.

After teaching in the Dakotas, Pearl returned to rural Marble Rock where she kept her lists and soon discovered that the fall migration was just as exciting as the spring migration. In January 1970 she started a monthly column for the *Charles City Press*. When offered payment or a free subscription, she chose the latter. Her columns were about the birds she had added to her year's list that month, characteristics of those species, and environmental and weather conditions. The column ran until the spring of 1987 when the paper came under new management.

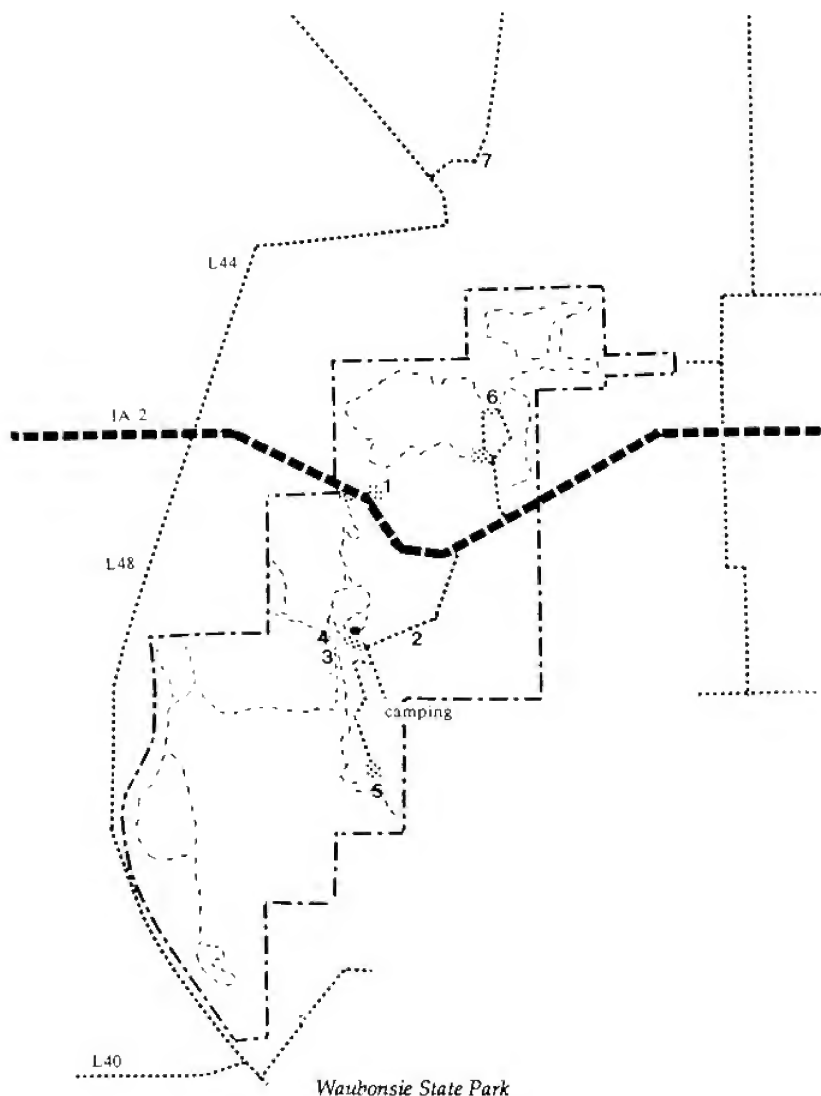
In the mid-1950s, Pearl moved into Marble Rock. She was the librarian for 17 years, retiring in 1980. She now has an apartment in a retirement complex and keeps her numerous bird feeders filled year around.

Pearl has been a member of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union since 1938, and for many years was the only correspondent to the Field Reports from northcentral Iowa. Almost all of her birding has been around Marble Rock where she has seen over 250 species. Her trips away from Marble Rock include a spring venture to Forney Lake and two fall excursions to De Soto Bend.

As a resident of the Marble Rock area in my youth, I knew of Pearl's interest in birds, but did not become acquainted with her until the fall of 1973. I had just developed an interest in birding and sought her out while visiting

home. She was quite open and helpful to me as she was to any area resident with an inquiry about birds. She corrected one of my identifications, directing my attention from fall warblers to a winter-plumaged American Goldfinch. She also encouraged me to start a yearly list.

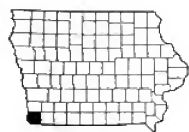
From 1974 to 1983 Pearl and I did a Christmas Count for the Marble Rock area, a count Pearl said she had always wanted to do. Currently, Pearl participates in the winter feeder survey and takes frequent walks to the sewage lagoon on the Shell Rock River, about a half mile from her apartment. She has divided up a Peterson guide into sections, such as shorebirds, warblers, and sparrows, and takes the section she feels will be right for the trip. Concerning field guides, she says, "Oh my, every time they come up with a new book, I have to revise my lists."



# BIRDING WAUBONSIE STATE PARK

TANYA BRAY

Waubonsie State Park occupies 1,028 acres of wooded bluffs of the loess hills on the edge of the Missouri River bottoms in southwest Fremont County. In addition to enjoying the pure beauty of the park, birders search the park and nearby areas for passerines, nightjars, migrating hawks, and Wild Turkey, and some are even distracted by the numerous butterflies.



The area is one of the best places in the state to find Chuck-will's-widow and Summer Tanager. A trip to Waubonsie can be extended to the Missouri River bottoms to look for Blue Grosbeak and Western Kingbird or east to Riverton Area and north to Forney Lake to look for waterbirds.

The park lies north-south on the loess hills and is bisected east-west by Iowa highway 2 (which can be reached from Interstate 29 on the west or U.S. 275 on the east). Birding can be done from roads in the park, from highway 2, or from gravel roads outside the park, or one can hike the numerous trails that lead into remote areas and deep wooded valleys.

A good place to start is the parking lot on the north side of highway 2 that is 0.5 miles east of county road L44 (1). The steep ravine to the north is a reliable spot for Louisiana Waterthrush in spring and early summer. Listen for the song or distinctive metallic call note. For the more adventurous, a very steep, often muddy trail leads from the east end of the parking lot into the ravine and north along the creek. Northern Parula, Scarlet Tanager, other resident woodland birds, and migrant warblers can be found here.

The main part of the park lies south of highway 2 and is reached by Iowa highway 239. Local birders stop at the stone pillars marking the entrance to the park (2) to look for Bewick's Wren, which was found once in May 1984. This is a good spot to walk the west side of the road, which borders the deep woods, looking for Summer Tanager, Wood Thrush, Ovenbird, and American Redstart. The Summer Tanager is often located by song or call note. The robin-like song is quite similar to that of the Scarlet Tanager, so the more distinctive "pit-er-ic" call note is the best means for locating Summer Tanager. In spite of their bright color, singing birds may sit in one spot and be very difficult to find.

The main parking lot near the ranger headquarters is reached by turning right at the end of the entrance road. Check the parking lot area for Summer Tanager. Walk west to the overlook (3) looking for migrant warblers along the way. At the overlook, Turkey Vultures rise on the thermals in late morning. This looks like a good spot for a hawk watch, but, to my knowledge, none has been attempted.

A trail leads north (to the right) along the ridge bordered by oak-hickory woods to the east and steep slopes with remnants of native prairie to the west. Much of the prairie has been overgrown by sumac, dogwood, eastern red cedar, and bur oak. Field Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, Brown Thrasher, Gray Catbird, Rufous-sided Towhee, and other birds of the scrub can be found along this trail. Both Summer and Scarlet Tanagers occur in the woods and Kentucky Warbler is occasionally heard deep in the valley. The trail forks—the west fork leads into pastured area and the north fork leads into the

wooded valley. One can walk the wooded trail, mostly downhill, for about a mile to a foot bridge and small pulloff along highway 2. There are relatively few birds in the woods, but Kentucky Warbler has been found near the bottom of the trail. One can cover the bottom of the trail from highway 2.

The lower picnic area (5) is reached by a road that starts near the base of the headquarters parking lot and quickly winds into an interior valley with numerous picnic alcoves along the road. This open valley is one of the best birding areas in the park, especially early in the morning and on weekdays. Blue-gray Gnatcatchers are common nesters in the walnut trees. Eastern Phoebe nests near the stone rest room. Check the picnic alcoves for Carolina Wren and Kentucky Warbler. Black-and-white Warbler has lingered into June and Broad-winged Hawk nested in 1986.

The camping area, located along the southeast side of the park, is not frequented much by birders.

The north section of the park, which contains a horse corral and numerous bridle trails, is reached from highway 2. Eastern Bluebird is found along the entrance road. From a parking lot at the end (6) a bridle trail leads 300 feet to a large overgrown field. Orchard Oriole, Field Sparrow, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak are typical birds found here. For butterfly enthusiasts, the main attraction is zebra swallowtail, which feeds on milkweed blossoms in June and July. Up to 38 species of lepidoptera have been tallied in one day here.

The roads to the west of the park follow the base of the bluff. The best area for nightjars, owls, woodcock, turkey, and possibly Yellow-breasted Chat is north of the park (7). To reach this area, go north from highway 2 on L44 for about 1.5 miles. After crossing the creek, turn right on a gravel road. Look for Wild Turkey near the first house. Farther along, near the bend of the road and beyond at dawn or dusk, one can hear Chuck-will's-widow, Whip-poor-will, Wild Turkey, American Woodcock, and Eastern Screech Owl. Farther north, before the road turns east, Yellow-breasted Chat have been found. The area contains a valley going to the east with a branch going north and has a mixed habitat of farmland, hillsides covered with cedars, and deep woods.

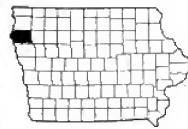
9708 Grover, Omaha, NE 68124



# BARN OWLS IN PLYMOUTH COUNTY

DOUGLAS E. TRAPP

While on a fishing trip on 1 August 1987 with my parents, Merle and Janice Trapp, at Hillview County Park in Hinton, Plymouth County, I heard the distinctive call of a Common Barn-Owl from the valley north of the fishing pond. A second owl responded from a grove of trees on the west edge of the pond. I returned to study the owls on 4, 12, 15, 16, and 20 August (with Kevin Loftus on the 4th, 15th, and 20th).



The owls were first heard at 9:00 p.m. and we continued to hear them up to 10:30 p.m., when the park closed. We compared the vocalizations with the four adult and two chick vocalizations on a record (A Portrait of the Barn Owl supplied by ICI Americas Inc.). On the 4th we heard the adult conversational call, a call most often used by perched birds. On the 12th we recorded the adult contact call, a call made during foraging and at the nest. We first saw the owls on the 15th as they flew around the grove and one flew across the road as we left. On the 16th, I saw the birds many times as I followed them by sound. Once they came together and emitted strange, comical sounds different from the conversational and contact calls. I observed the owls flying over fields, hovering, diving into the grass. The owls were heard again but not seen on the 20th.

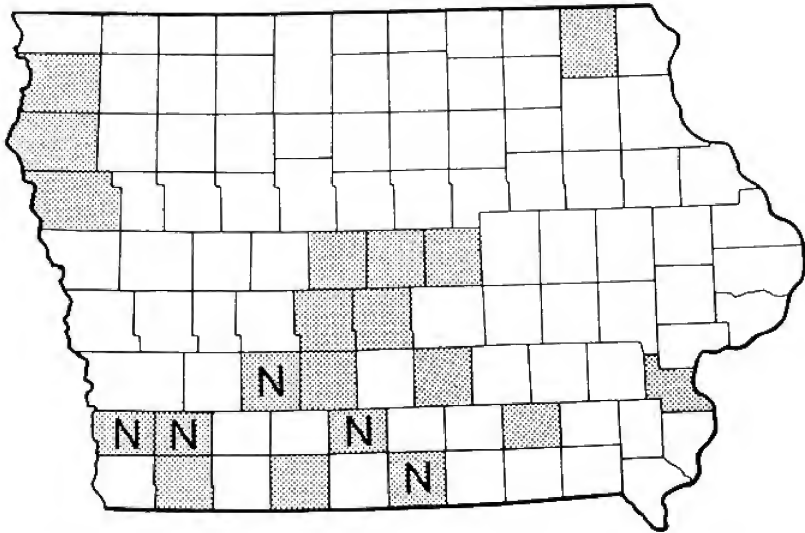
During the evenings of observation the barn owls ranged over a one square mile area, predominantly in areas of the park seldom visited by people. I was unable to locate a nest site, but Common Barn-Owls are known to forage and roost several miles from their nest site. The birds began hunting separately just after sunset, and I saw one catch and eat a small mammal.

Common Barn-Owl is uncommon in Iowa. I found 28 sightings in the Field Reports in *Iowa Bird Life* since 1980. Most of these were from central, south-central, and southwest Iowa (map). The only reports from northwest Iowa were from Sioux County on 4 December 1983, Osceola County in the spring of 1985, and from Woodbury County on 12 April 1987. Some of the records since 1983 are from areas where captive-bred birds have been released by the Department of Natural Resources. Six nest sites have been reported since 1980: Wayne County in 1985 and 1986, Clarke County in 1985, Adair County in 1987, Mills County in 1987, and Montgomery County in 1987. Another pair was heard repeatedly in Story County in 1985.

Common Barn-Owl reaches the northern part of its range in Iowa, where it is considered an endangered nesting species because numbers have apparently been decreasing. The actual number of birds in the state is difficult to determine because few people listen for them at night and only occasional birds are encountered during the day. Common Barn-Owls have short lives and large broods, so population changes can occur rapidly.

Familiarity with vocalizations and night surveys are needed to locate barn owls. I recommend two recordings: (1) *Sounds of the Night--A Portrait of the Barn Owl*, a small plastic record with pamphlets about the barn owl and nest box construction, distributed by ICI Americas Inc, Agricultural Chemicals Division, Wilmington, Delaware (available free, postpaid, from Midwest Raptor Research Society, P.O. Box 1812, Sioux City, IA 51102-1812) and (2)

3229 Lindenwood St., Sioux City, IA 51104



Location of Common Barn-Owl sightings by county, 1980-1987. N = nesting.

# EARLY AND LATE DATES UPDATED

THOMAS H. KENT

*Iowa Birds* (Dinsmore et al. 1984) listed dates for the three earliest and latest spring and fall migrants and summer and winter residents through 1982. The authors of the book wanted to stimulate the reporting of early and late birds in order to better define migration intervals. In the next five years (1983-1987) an enormous amount of new data were reported, making many of the dates reported in *Iowa Birds* obsolete.

With the help of Jim Dinsmore and Bob Myers in compiling new record early and late dates for regular and casual species, I constructed a computer file with the dates from *Iowa Birds* and recent additions published in *Iowa Bird Life* through the current issue (i.e., sightings up to 1 December 1987). From this file I printed a table that is convenient for reference that I now carry with my field equipment. On a recent field trip I used the table four times to check to see if a bird I was looking at was unusually early or late. If I know that a bird is unusually early or late, I make notes about its appearance immediately or just after viewing. I showed the list to several I.O.U. members at the Fall meeting, and they encouraged me to publish it so others could use it as a guide for reporting sightings to the Field Reports editors.

The table presents the three earliest or latest dates on which the three earliest or latest birds were seen. The month and year are given, except for a few old records for which the day was given as early (E), mid (M), or late (L) in the month or is unknown (?). In a few instances I could not find three reasonable published records--these are listed as "need". For some species there are not three early or late records--these are indicated as "all".

It was often difficult to determine whether dates represented early or late migrants versus summer or winter vagrants. When there were only a few records between fairly obvious early and late migration dates, I listed all of these records under winter or summer (e.g., one February record of Common Loon is listed under winter; early January records are given as late migrants). Species are listed as rare in summer or winter if the species is not normally present, but there are scattered records in all months of the season (e.g., Common Loon in summer). In these cases, "rare" means rare enough to be reported, but enough records to obscure early and late migration dates. For some migrants (especially shorebirds) the late spring dates and early fall dates are so close together that a few June records make it impossible to distinguish migrants from lingering summer birds. In these cases it would appear from the table that these species are summer residents when they are not. Observers should report June or early July sightings of these species (Little Blue Heron, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Common Tern, and Alder Flycatcher).

Some species that are generally considered to be migrants or summer or winter residents do not appear in the table because winter and/or summer records are not unusual (many of the waterfowl, hawks, and blackbirds; American Coot, Killdeer, Ring-billed Gull, Belted Kingfisher, Brown Creeper, Eastern Bluebird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Rufous-sided Towhee, Swamp Sparrow, and Pine Siskin).

In an attempt to make the table compact and easy for field use, I did not include the years of the records, but I have these along with the reference citation in my computer file. I did not use some records, including some of those in *Iowa Birds*, because the dates were quite unusual and the species difficult to identify. It should also be noted that the authors of *Iowa Birds* did not make a thorough search for record early and late dates that might have occurred prior to 1960, and in some cases purposely did not include them when the status of the species changed over time.

A few problems deserve special attention. I included only one fall Broad-winged Hawk record even though there are several December records. We should start over on late dates for this species that is considered to be gone from the northern United States in winter. The status of Ferruginous Hawk in Iowa is currently under investigation; a report will be published soon. Thrushes are difficult to identify. The records listed are mostly from banding data, which is the best way, in my opinion, to establish early and late dates for Gray-cheeked, Swainson's, and Hermit thrushes.

It is interesting to note that the range of the three earliest or latest dates tends to be narrower than that published in *Iowa Birds*. This suggests that there is a limit to early and late arrival times and that the extreme dates are not just accidents of migration.

It is difficult to imagine that I handled all of these data without making mistakes of omission, translation, or judgement in selection. Omission and translation errors will be corrected; differences in judgement will be acknowledged. Old data that were reported to Field Reports editors, but not published, will be considered for updating of the table if brought to my attention.

	Record Early Arrivals				Record Late Departures		
Common Loon . . . . .	03-08	03-17	03-20	<----->	01-03	01-06	01-10
summer:	rare						
winter:	02-17						
Pied-billed Grebe							
winter:	rare						
Horned Grebe . . . . .	03-05	03-10	03-16	<----->	05-24	06-09	06-11
	08-16	08-16	08-18	<----->	12-22	01-01	01-07
winter:	02-10	02-12					
Red-necked Grebe . . . . .	03-30	04-04	04-07	<----->	05-12	05-18	05-21
	09-09	09-11	09-20	<----->	11-24	12-15	12-17
summer:	06-06	06-06	06-23	07-20			
Eared Grebe . . . . .	03-14	03-15	03-22	<----->	12-16	12-23	01-02
summer:	rare						
Western Grebe . . . . .	03-12	03-29	04-09	<----->	12-E	12-17	12-23
summer:	rare						
American White Pelican . . .	03-10	03-10	03-14	<----->	11-22	11-22	11-24
summer:	rare						
winter:	02-01						
Double-crested Cormorant							
winter:	rare						
American Bittern . . . . .	03-24	03-28	04-05	<----->	11-14	11-17	11-21
summer:	rare						
winter:	01-02						
Least Bittern . . . . .	04-28	04-30	05-01	<----->	10-08	10-18	11-12
Great Blue Heron							
winter:	rare						
Great Egret . . . . .	03-07	03-17	03-27	<----->	11-07	11-19	11-26

	Early Arrivals				Late Departures		
Snowy Egret . . . . .	03-27	04-06	04-18	<----->	09-13	09-29	10-18
Little Blue Heron . . . . .	03-31	04-06	04-11	<----->	09-23	10-02	10-11
Cattle Egret . . . . .	03-20	03-26	04-01	<----->	11-L	11-20	11-26
Green-backed Heron . . . . .	03-26	03-26	04-15	<----->	10-21	10-23	11-26
Black-crowned Night-Heron . . . . .	03-17	03-24	03-26	<----->	11-02	11-04	11-08
winter:	12-29	02-16					
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron . . . . .	03-31	04-01	04-03	<----->	10-04	10-11	10-14
Ibis Species . . . . .	04-06	04-13	04-18	<----->	05-19	05-20	05-23
summer:	08-10	09-02	09-11	<----->	09-30	10-01	10-20
summer:	06-11						
White-faced Ibis . . . . .	04-23	04-28	05-01	<----->	05-18	05-19	05-29
summer:	08-08	all		<----->			09-11
summer:	07-13						
Tundra Swan . . . . .	02-19	02-28	03-03	<----->	05-03	05-15	05-30
summer:	09-03	09-23	10-04	<----->	12-22	01-03	01-19
Mute Swan . . . . .	09-11	09-25	10-04	<----->	04-11	05-06	05-25
Greater White-fronted Goose							
summer:	rare						
winter:	rare						
Ross' Goose . . . . .	02-17	02-26	03-14	<----->	03-28	04-03	05-04
summer:	10-04	10-29	10-31	<----->	12-28	12-29	01-14
American Black Duck							
summer:	rare						
Blue-winged Teal							
winter:	rare						
Cinnamon Teal . . . . .	03-05	03-17	03-25	<----->	05-18	05-19	05-19
summer:	09-07	09-07	all	<----->	10-16	10-19	10-21
summer:	06-21	07-03	07-17				
Northern Shoveler							
winter:	rare						
Greater Scaup . . . . .	10-05	10-13	11-03	<----->	05-06	05-10	05-15
winter:	rare						
Oldsquaw . . . . .	10-11	10-24	10-24	<----->	04-19	04-19	04-25
Black Scoter . . . . .	03-31	all					
summer:	10-25	10-25	10-26	<----->	11-21	11-23	12-20
winter:	02-15						
Surf Scoter . . . . .	03-14	03-28	04-09	<----->	05-17	05-19	05-19
summer:	10-05	10-11	10-17	<----->	11-25	11-27	12-06
White-winged Scoter . . . . .	10-10	10-12	10-16	<----->	04-22	04-25	05-15
winter:	rare						
Common Goldeneye . . . . .	10-08	10-24	11-05	<----->	05-17	05-26	06-10
summer:	07-17						
Bufflehead . . . . .	10-06	10-07	10-08	<----->	05-14	05-16	05-18
summer:	06-27	07-23	07-26				
Common Merganser							
summer:	rare						
Red-breasted Merganser . . . . .	09-23	10-25	need	<----->	06-04	06-06	06-27
winter:	rare						
Ruddy Duck . . . . .	03-11	03-12	03-13	<----->	12-27	01-01	01-03
Turkey Vulture							
winter:	rare						
Osprey . . . . .	03-04	03-17	03-24	<----->	12-27	01-16	01-17
summer:	rare						
Bald Eagle							
summer:	rare						
Northern Goshawk . . . . .	09-06	09-09	09-16	<----->	04-20	05-06	05-21
Broad-winged Hawk . . . . .	04-06	04-07	04-11	<----->	10-29	see text	
Swainson's Hawk . . . . .	03-18	03-28	04-02	<----->	11-03	11-10	11-11
Ferruginous Hawk							
winter:	rare	see text					

	Early Arrivals				Late Departures		
Rough-legged Hawk . . . . .	09-01	09-12	09-28	<----->	05-09	05-09	05-11
Golden Eagle . . . . .	09-15	09-17	09-30	<----->	04-12	04-12	04-30
summer: 06-?							
Merlin . . . . .	08-21	09-02	09-02	<----->	05-03	05-05	05-11
summer: 06-14							
winter: rare							
Peregrine Falcon . . . . .	08-03	09-01	09-03	<----->	05-12	05-14	05-14
summer: old							
winter: rare							
Prairie Falcon . . . . .	08-23	08-31	09-20	<----->	04-20	04-26	05-01
Yellow Rail . . . . .	04-13	04-15	04-15	<----->	05-18	05-19	05-27
summer: 08-31		09-20	09-21	<----->	10-01	10-20	11-E
King Rail . . . . .	04-15	04-17	04-20	<----->	09-16	10-04	10-14
winter: 12-26		01-09					
Virginia Rail . . . . .	04-17	04-19	04-20	<----->	11-01	11-04	11-26
winter: 01-30							
Sora . . . . .	04-04	04-04	04-07	<----->	11-04	11-17	11-22
winter: 12-29		12-30					
Common Moorhen . . . . .	04-05	04-21	04-24	<----->	10-17	10-21	10-23
Sandhill Crane . . . . .	09-15	09-25	10-03	<----->	05-09	05-11	05-13
winter: rare							
Black-bellied Plover . . . . .	04-18	04-21	04-24	<----->	06-01	06-10	06-19
summer: 08-01		08-05	08-06	<----->	11-13	11-15	11-19
summer: 06-27							
Lesser Golden-Plover . . . . .	03-12	03-14	03-20	<----->	11-16	11-19	11-22
Semipalmated Plover . . . . .	04-03	04-13	04-19	<----->	06-14	06-15	06-15
summer: 07-06		07-12	07-18	<----->	10-23	10-27	11-06
Piping Plover . . . . .	04-11	04-14	04-17	<----->	08-20	08-29	09-05
American Avocet . . . . .	04-14	04-15	04-15	<----->	05-25	05-25	06-06
summer: 06-26		07-06	07-07	<----->	11-05	11-09	11-10
summer: 07-03							
Greater Yellowlegs . . . . .	03-08	03-16	03-16	<----->	11-16	11-17	11-25
Lesser Yellowlegs . . . . .	03-05	03-10	03-14	<----->	11-11	11-12	11-13
Solitary Sandpiper . . . . .	04-04	04-05	04-12	<----->	05-22	05-23	05-28
summer: 06-23		06-26	06-28	<----->	10-07	10-08	10-11
Willet . . . . .	04-02	04-03	04-06	<----->	05-29	06-01	06-02
summer: 06-25		06-27	06-28	<----->	09-05	10-19	10-20
Spotted Sandpiper . . . . .	04-02	04-17	04-18	<----->	10-26	11-02	11-16
winter: 01-14							
Upland Sandpiper . . . . .	03-26	04-07	04-11	<----->	09-29	10-13	10-15
Whimbrel . . . . .	04-22	04-25	05-04	<----->	05-25	05-25	05-26
summer: 08-01		all		<----->		09-05	09-14
Hudsonian Godwit . . . . .	03-20	04-03	04-14	<----->	06-04	06-05	06-08
summer: 08-04		08-04	08-10	<----->	10-05	10-18	10-23
Marbled Godwit . . . . .	04-03	04-05	04-10	<----->	05-23	05-25	05-27
summer: 08-02		08-10	08-15	<----->	09-16	09-23	10-01
summer: 06-23		07-06	07-06				
Ruddy Turnstone . . . . .	05-06	05-07	05-12	<----->	06-04	06-11	06-15
summer: 07-26		07-30	07-31	<----->	09-21	09-29	09-29
winter: 02-?							
Sanderling . . . . .	04-08	04-20	04-20	<----->	06-03	06-03	06-05
summer: 07-25		07-25	07-26	<----->	11-07	11-10	11-10
Semipalmated Sandpiper . . . . .	04-11	04-14	04-19	<----->	11-03	11-13	11-21
Western Sandpiper . . . . .	04-10	04-16	04-26	<----->	05-21	05-23	06-02
summer: 07-01		07-09	07-13	<----->	09-30	10-01	10-04
Least Sandpiper . . . . .	03-14	03-16	03-19	<----->	06-03	06-03	06-09
summer: 06-26		07-03	07-03	<----->	11-10	11-17	11-23
White-rumped Sandpiper . . . . .	04-10	04-19	04-30	<----->	06-06	06-09	06-10
summer: 08-06		08-15	08-26	<----->	10-13	10-15	10-20

	Early Arrivals				Late Departures			
Baird's Sandpiper . . . . .	03-24	03-25	03-30	<----->	06-06	06-09	06-11	
	07-07	07-11	07-14	<----->	10-27	10-28	11-21	
Pectoral Sandpiper . . . . .	02-19	03-05	03-07	<----->	11-21	11-25	11-29	
Dunlin . . . . .	04-02	04-13	04-13	<----->	06-09	06-10	06-15	
	07-11	07-27	07-28	<----->	11-27	12-01	12-02	
Stilt Sandpiper . . . . .	04-21	04-22	04-28	<----->	06-02	06-03	06-10	
	06-27	07-03	07-03	<----->	10-20	10-23	10-25	
Buff-breasted Sandpiper . . . . .	04-24	04-26	05-06	<----->	05-19	05-19	05-20	
	07-22	07-26	07-29	<----->	09-23	09-28	10-13	
Short-billed Dowitcher . . . . .	04-26	04-27	04-30	<----->	05-28	06-03	06-08	
	07-03	07-04	07-04	<----->	09-11	09-15	09-21	
Long-billed Dowitcher . . . . .	03-23	03-25	03-29	<----->	05-10	05-13	05-16	
	07-18	07-29	08-03	<----->	11-07	11-13	11-19	
Common Snipe	summer: rare							
American Woodcock . . . . .	02-15	02-24	02-28	<----->	11-11	11-27	12-08	
Wilson's Phalarope . . . . .	03-13	04-15	04-16	<----->	09-24	09-28	09-28	
Red-necked Phalarope . . . . .	04-26	04-30	05-09	<----->	06-02	06-03	06-04	
	08-11	08-15	08-15	<----->	10-04	10-07	11-E	
	summer: 06-22							
Franklin's Gull . . . . .	02-27	03-02	03-02	<----->	12-02	12-08	12-21	
	winter: 01-17 02-17							
Bonaparte's Gull . . . . .	03-10	03-17	03-20	<----->	06-06	06-13	06-23	
	08-08	08-11	08-12	<----->	12-16	12-21	12-26	
Herring Gull	summer: rare							
Glaucous Gull . . . . .	11-22	11-25	11-25	<----->	03-31	04-03	04-04	
Black-legged Kittiwake . . . . .	03-12	all						
	10-25	10-27	11-21	<----->	12-12	12-20	12-29	
Caspian Tern . . . . .	04-21	04-26	04-29	<----->	10-19	11-01	11-07	
Common Tern . . . . .	04-14	04-18	04-20	<----->	10-13	10-13	10-27	
	summer: rare							
Forster's Tern . . . . .	04-07	04-10	04-12	<----->	10-28	11-05	11-09	
Least Tern . . . . .	04-22	05-11	05-13	<----->	09-08	09-08	09-13	
Black Tern . . . . .	04-12	04-29	05-01	<----->	10-02	10-02	10-09	
Black-billed Cuckoo . . . . .	05-04	05-05	05-08	<----->	10-17	10-18	10-25	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo . . . . .	05-07	05-07	05-08	<----->	10-22	10-26	10-28	
Snowy Owl . . . . .	10-01	10-07	10-14	<----->	03-25	04-02	04-28	
Burrowing Owl . . . . .	03-20	03-29	04-01	<----->	10-05	10-09	10-15	
	winter: 12-28							
Long-eared Owl	summer: rare							
Short-eared Owl	summer: rare							
Northern Saw-whet Owl . . . . .	10-05	10-05	10-06	<----->	04-11	04-22	05-04	
Common Nighthawk . . . . .	04-24	04-26	04-27	<----->	10-18	10-19	10-29	
Chuck-will's-Widow . . . . .	04-24	05-07	05-09	<----->	07-30	08-13	09-M	
Whip-poor-will . . . . .	04-11	04-12	04-13	<----->	10-20	10-20	11-03	
Chimney Swift . . . . .	04-11	04-12	04-13	<----->	10-26	10-27	11-26	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird . . . . .	04-25	04-26	04-27	<----->	10-28	11-20	11-27	
Olive-sided Flycatcher . . . . .	04-28	05-03	05-04	<----->	06-11	06-12	06-13	
	07-25	08-02	08-04	<----->	09-28	10-05	10-20	
Eastern Wood-Pewee . . . . .	05-04	05-05	05-07	<----->	10-10	10-13	10-23	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher . . . . .	05-04	05-07	05-09	<----->	06-08	06-08	06-12	
	08-05	08-10	08-13	<----->	10-07	10-10	10-12	
Acadian Flycatcher . . . . .	04-27	05-03	05-03	<----->	09-15	09-25	09-26	
Alder Flycatcher . . . . .	05-12	05-15	05-17	<----->	08-17	08-24	09-08	
	summer: rare							
Willow Flycatcher . . . . .	05-05	05-05	05-06	<----->	need	09-21	09-25	
Least Flycatcher . . . . .	04-25	04-27	04-27	<----->	10-05	10-05	10-16	

	Early Arrivals				Late Departures		
Eastern Phoebe . . . . .	03-15	03-18	03-18	<----->	11-03	11-04	11-05
winter:	12-27	01-03					
Say's Phoebe . . . . .	03-24	04-07	04-09	<----->	09-20	09-20	09-29
winter:	12-22						
Great Crested Flycatcher . . . . .	04-22	04-26	04-27	<----->	09-27	09-28	10-09
Western Kingbird . . . . .	04-21	04-28	04-28	<----->	10-13	10-20	11-03
Eastern Kingbird . . . . .	04-06	04-21	04-22	<----->	10-02	10-04	10-08
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher . . . . .	04-15	04-22	04-24	<----->	08-31	09-10	10-27
Purple Martin . . . . .	03-03	03-23	03-23	<----->	10-10	10-14	11-02
Tree Swallow . . . . .	03-15	03-18	03-20	<----->	11-03	11-05	11-14
N. Rough-winged Swallow . . . . .	04-04	04-06	04-08	<----->	10-11	10-16	10-25
Bank Swallow . . . . .	04-12	04-14	04-16	<----->	09-30	09-30	10-11
Cliff Swallow . . . . .	04-18	04-18	04-23	<----->	10-06	10-13	10-29
Barn Swallow . . . . .	03-16	03-20	03-22	<----->	10-04	11-10	11-21
Red-breasted Nuthatch							
summer:	rare						
Bewick's Wren . . . . .	03-15	03-23	03-31	<----->	10-29	12-	12-28
House Wren . . . . .	04-07	04-09	04-15	<----->	10-25	10-31	11-07
winter:	12-22	01-04					
Winter Wren							
summer:	rare						
Sedge Wren . . . . .	04-25	04-26	04-26	<----->	10-23	10-30	11-15
winter:	12-20	12-20					
Marsh Wren . . . . .	04-17	04-19	04-22	<----->	11-07	11-11	11-23
winter:	12-16	01-02					
Golden-crowned Kinglet . . . . .	08-31	09-18	09-21	<----->	05-06	05-12	05-15
Ruby-crowned Kinglet . . . . .	08-06	08-16	08-24	<----->	05-25	05-25	05-29
summer:	07-24	07-24					
winter:	rare						
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher . . . . .	04-05	04-10	04-11	<----->	09-24	09-24	11-13
Townsend's Solitaire . . . . .	10-06	10-17	10-29	<----->	04-18	05-06	05-16
Veery . . . . .	04-30	05-01	05-03	<----->	09-23	09-30	10-01
Gray-cheeked Thrush . . . . .	04-22	04-26	04-26	<----->	06-01	06-02	06-02
08-14	08-17	08-28	<----->	10-14		see text	
Swainson's Thrush . . . . .	04-20	04-22	04-22	<----->	06-03	06-03	06-04
08-16	08-18	08-19	<----->	10-30	11-06	11-14	
summer:	07-21						
Hermit Thrush . . . . .	09-15	09-25	09-26	<----->	05-10	05-10	05-29
winter:	rare						
Wood Thrush . . . . .	04-19	04-24	04-28	<----->	10-13	10-14	10-24
Varied Thrush . . . . .	10-22	10-30	11-17	<----->	04-11	04-19	05-16
Gray Catbird . . . . .	04-20	04-22	04-22	<----->	12-30	01-02	01-09
WaterPipit . . . . .	03-03	03-09	03-13	<----->	05-15	05-19	05-27
08-20	08-28	09-11	<----->	12-20	12-26	12-29	
Bohemian Waxwing . . . . .	09-27	11-02	11-11	<----->	03-15	03-28	05-04
Northern Shrike . . . . .	10-02	10-18	10-18	<----->	03-31	04-01	04-06
White-eyed Vireo . . . . .	04-05	04-18	04-19	<----->	09-25	09-26	10-01
Bell's Vireo . . . . .	04-25	05-02	05-02	<----->	09-23	09-24	11-19
Solitary Vireo . . . . .	04-21	04-24	04-24	<----->	05-28	05-28	06-14
08-20	08-22	08-24	<----->	11-02	11-07	11-11	
summer:	07-13						
winter:	12-20						
Yellow-throated Vireo . . . . .	04-22	04-24	04-28	<----->	10-03	10-13	10-19
Warbling Vireo . . . . .	04-23	04-26	04-26	<----->	need	need	10-11
Philadelphia Vireo . . . . .	05-02	05-02	05-03	<----->	05-31	05-31	06-04
08-15	08-18	08-19	<----->	10-05	10-08	10-09	
Red-eyed Vireo . . . . .	04-25	04-27	04-27	<----->	10-16	11-04	11-05
Blue-winged Warbler . . . . .	04-20	04-22	04-25	<----->	09-16	09-18	09-26
Golden-winged Warbler . . . . .	04-29	04-30	04-30	<----->	05-23	05-26	06-03
07-29	08-11	08-12	<----->	09-26	09-27	10-02	



	Early Arrivals				Late Departures		
Tennessee Warbler . . . . .	.04-20	04-21	04-26	<----->	06-06	06-07	06-16
	08-09	08-09	08-09	<----->	10-23	10-23	11-03
summer:	06-28	07-03					
Orange-crowned Warbler . . . . .	04-15	04-18	04-19	<----->	05-19	05-30	06-06
	08-22	08-25	09-01	<----->	12-21	12-27	12-31
Nashville Warbler . . . . .	.04-13	04-20	04-22	<----->	05-27	05-29	06-05
	07-22	08-11	08-14	<----->	11-01	11-04	11-06
Northern Parula . . . . .	04-09	04-13	04-13	<----->	10-04	10-10	10-16
Yellow Warbler . . . . .	.04-24	04-24	04-26	<----->	10-02	10-02	10-05
Chestnut-sided Warbler . . . . .	.05-02	05-03	05-03	<----->	10-04	10-04	10-05
summer:	rare						
Magnolia Warbler . . . . .	.04-18	04-29	05-02	<----->	06-02	06-06	06-22
	08-12	08-13	08-14	<----->	11-02	11-02	11-26
Cape May Warbler . . . . .	.05-01	05-01	05-01	<----->	05-22	05-23	05-23
	08-11	08-12	08-12	<----->	10-23	10-23	11-17
Black-throated Blue Warbler . . . . .	.05-06	05-06	05-09	<----->	05-18	05-19	05-21
	08-23	08-24	08-30	<----->	10-31	11-03	11-20
Yellow-rumped Warbler . . . . .	.08-20	08-23	08-23	<----->	06-02	06-08	06-17
winter:	rare						
Black-throated Green Warbler . . . . .	.04-06	04-08	04-14	<----->	05-28	05-31	06-01
	08-02	08-13	08-16	<----->	11-03	11-06	11-10
Blackburnian Warbler . . . . .	.04-29	04-30	05-05	<----->	06-05	06-08	06-11
	08-12	08-13	08-13	<----->	10-17	10-18	11-16
Yellow-throated Warbler . . . . .	.04-11	04-13	04-14	<----->	09-22	09-27	11-04
Pine Warbler . . . . .	.04-17	04-25	04-27	<----->	05-19	05-20	05-24
	08-24	08-24	08-27	<----->	10-04	10-04	10-06
Prairie Warbler . . . . .	.04-23	04-26	05-01	<----->	08-27	09-05	09-15
Palm Warbler . . . . .	.04-19	04-20	04-21	<----->	need	05-22	05-29
	09-08	09-09	09-13	<----->	10-14	10-21	11-17
Bay-breasted Warbler . . . . .	.04-18	05-03	05-06	<----->	05-27	05-29	05-31
	08-14	08-16	08-17	<----->	10-20	10-20	10-30
Blackpoll Warbler . . . . .	.04-27	04-28	04-30	<----->	06-01	06-07	06-09
	08-16	08-19	08-21	<----->	10-05	10-05	10-12
Cerulean Warbler . . . . .	.04-22	04-24	04-27	<----->	09-26	10-01	10-03
Black-and-white Warbler . . . . .	.03-31	04-05	04-15	<----->	10-18	10-22	10-30
American Redstart . . . . .	.04-27	04-30	05-01	<----->	10-16	10-23	10-23
Prothonotary Warbler . . . . .	.04-26	04-27	04-30	<----->	08-27	08-31	09-15
Worm-eating Warbler . . . . .	.04-23	04-25	04-26	<----->	09-10	09-13	09-15
Ovenbird . . . . .	.04-14	04-16	04-20	<----->	10-17	11-04	12-28
Northern Waterthrush . . . . .	.04-18	04-19	04-23	<----->	05-29	06-01	06-01
	08-05	08-06	08-06	<----->	10-19	11-18	11-21
Louisiana Waterthrush . . . . .	.03-31	04-02	04-04	<----->	08-21	09-02	09-09
Kentucky Warbler . . . . .	.04-24	04-26	04-27	<----->	09-14	09-15	09-23
Connecticut Warbler . . . . .	.04-27	05-07	05-11	<----->	06-01	06-03	06-06
	08-20	08-21	08-23	<----->	10-05	10-08	10-24
Mourning Warbler . . . . .	.05-04	05-06	05-07	<----->	06-16	06-17	06-19
	08-09	08-11	08-14	<----->	10-01	10-02	10-04
Common Yellowthroat . . . . .	.04-21	04-22	04-23	<----->	10-15	10-20	11-03
winter:	12-20						
Hooded Warbler . . . . .	.04-23	04-26	04-27	<----->	08-23	08-29	09-26
Wilson's Warbler . . . . .	.04-29	05-02	05-03	<----->	05-29	05-30	06-01
	08-08	08-08	08-15	<----->	10-18	11-02	11-25
Canada Warbler . . . . .	.05-03	05-04	05-09	<----->	06-22	06-28	06-28
	08-04	08-09	08-12	<----->	09-30	10-03	10-06
Yellow-breasted Chat . . . . .	.05-03	05-05	05-05	<----->	09-20	09-28	09-28
winter:	01-16						
Summer Tanager . . . . .	.04-20	04-27	04-28	<----->	09-22	10-07	10-08
Scarlet Tanager . . . . .	.04-22	04-26	04-27	<----->	10-22	10-28	11-15
Rose-breasted Grosbeak . . . . .	.04-07	04-24	04-24	<----->	01-?	01-02	01-22
Blue Grosbeak . . . . .	.04-23	05-07	05-08	<----->	09-20	10-04	10-08
Indigo Bunting . . . . .	.04-26	04-27	04-27	<----->	10-22	10-23	11-04

	Early Arrivals				Late Departures		
Dickcissel . . . . .	04-10	04-16	04-27	<---->	10-19	11-02	11-26
winter:	01-24						
American Tree Sparrow . . . . .	09-14	09-14	09-14	<---->	04-20	05-03	05-05
Chipping Sparrow . . . . .	04-02	04-06	04-09	<---->	12-21	12-26	12-29
Clay-colored Sparrow . . . . .	04-08	04-19	04-24	<---->	10-31	11-13	12-03
Field Sparrow							
winter:	rare						
Vesper Sparrow							
winter:	rare						
Lark Sparrow . . . . .	04-07	04-14	04-21	<---->	09-13	10-05	11-22
winter:	02-05						
Lark Bunting . . . . .	03-28	04-15	05-04	<---->	07-01	07-01	07-29
Savannah Sparrow . . . . .	03-04	03-16	03-17	<---->	11-23	01-08	01-22
Grasshopper Sparrow . . . . .	04-10	04-10	04-11	<---->	10-26	10-29	11-05
Henslow's Sparrow . . . . .	03-29	04-03	04-25	<---->	09-29	10-24	10-29
LeConte's Sparrow . . . . .	03-19	03-29	03-30	<---->	05-16	05-20	05-21
	09-05	09-14	09-14	<---->	12-13	12-20	12-26
summer:	08-19						
Sharp-tailed Sparrow . . . . .	04-24	04-26	05-02	<---->	05-27	05-29	06-04
	08-30	09-13	09-14	<---->	10-19	10-19	10-25
Fox Sparrow . . . . .	09-21	09-22	09-27	<---->	04-23	04-25	05-06
Lincoln's Sparrow . . . . .	09-04	09-07	09-23	<---->	05-27	05-30	06-02
winter:	rare						
White-throated Sparrow . . . . .	09-04	09-05	09-06	<---->	06-03	06-04	06-09
summer:	07-18	07-20					
White-crowned Sparrow . . . . .	09-12	09-23	09-26	<---->	05-24	05-25	05-28
Harris' Sparrow . . . . .	09-17	09-21	09-21	<---->	05-25	05-26	05-26
summer:	06-15						
Dark-eyed Junco . . . . .	09-11	09-20	09-20	<---->	05-22	05-25	06-07
summer:	07-19						
Lapland Longspur . . . . .	09-30	10-02	10-03	<---->	04-27	04-28	05-12
Smith's Longspur . . . . .	02-27	03-02	03-05	<---->	04-22	04-22	05-07
Chestnut-colored Longspur . . . . .	03-12	03-20	04-04	<---->	04-15	all	
Snow Bunting . . . . .	10-20	10-27	10-28	<---->	03-24	04-05	04-09
Bobolink . . . . .	04-26	04-28	05-03	<---->	10-10	10-15	11-25
Eastern Meadowlark							
winter:	rare						
Yellow-headed Blackbird							
winter:	rare						
Rusty Blackbird . . . . .	10-01	10-16	10-22	<---->	04-21	04-28	05-09
Brewer's Blackbird . . . . .	09-13	09-30	need	<---->	05-02	05-06	05-10
Great-tailed Grackle . . . . .	05-15	05-17	05-19	<---->	08-06	11-22	12-22
Orchard Oriole . . . . .	04-24	04-27	04-28	<---->	09-09	09-22	10-19
Northern Oriole . . . . .	04-19	04-23	04-24	<---->	01-04	01-14	02-02
Pine Grosbeak . . . . .	10-24	10-30	11-02	<---->	02-25	02-28	03-08
Purple Finch . . . . .	08-25	08-26	08-27	<---->	05-15	05-15	05-17
Red Crossbill . . . . .	08-02	08-10	08-16	<---->	05-25	05-31	06-07
summer:	07-10						
White-winged Crossbill . . . . .	08-L	10-26	10-28	<---->	04-28	05-04	05-21
summer:	07-24						
Common Redpoll . . . . .	10-15	10-23	10-25	<---->	04-03	04-08	05-01
Evening Grosbeak . . . . .	08-25	09-08	09-18	<---->	05-12	05-14	05-14

# FIELD REPORTS--FALL 1987

CARL J. BENDORF

## WEATHER

After a hot and dry summer season, August was relatively cool and the third wettest in 115 years. Rainfall was much above normal in all regions except NW and NC Iowa. A number of storms occurred throughout the month, some included damaging winds and hail.

September temperatures averaged exactly normal and precipitation was about three-fourths of the average 3.42 inches. Several damaging hailstorms were reported from NW to EC Iowa on the 14th, and high winds occurred in WC and SW Iowa on the 5th and 6th.

October was the 9th coolest and 9th driest on record and was notable for temperature extremes. It was 86 F at Newton on the 1st and 87 at Rock Rapids on the 4th. By 11 October, the temperature was down to 14 at Clarion and Webster City.

November reversed the trend set in October and was the 7th warmest on record with more than average overcast and fog. The coldest temperatures were only in the teens and occurred on the 10th and 11th in W Iowa and on the 20th and 21st in C and E Iowa. Precipitation was 75% above normal with the greatest amounts in SC and SE Iowa. The first significant snowfall was on the 27th and was heaviest in W Iowa.



### Mean Temperature and Precipitation with Deviation from Normal

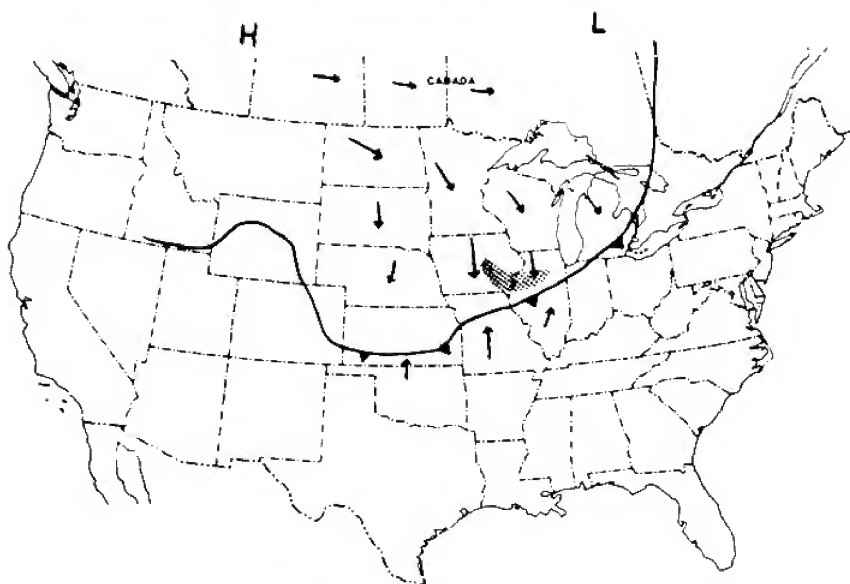
	Temperature, F	Precipitation, inches
	Mean (Deviation)	Mean (Deviation)
August	70.6 (-1.5)	7.76 (+3.66)
September	63.5 (+0.0)	2.59 (-0.83)
October	47.0 (-5.7)	0.79 (-1.51)
November	41.8 (+4.6)	2.64 (+1.13)

## GENERAL TRENDS

Like last year, most of the best birding was water-related. Does this reflect the true distribution of interesting birds, or are water areas just easier and more fun to cover? Many of the herons lingered late this year, perhaps because of plentiful habitat from the heavy rains in August. Every year, the concentration of Snowy Egrets and Little Blue Herons in SW Iowa is a little larger. Among waterfowl, the scoters made the best showing with more reports than ever for all three species. Shorebirds were also well represented, especially in W and C Iowa. Unlike last year, the weather never got very cold in November and there were no large numbers of gulls pushed down from the north; however, there was a nice variety found at Saylorville Reservoir.

Land birds were generally unimpressive this fall. Raptor numbers were generally down as evidenced by small numbers of the common species.

Among passerines, most flycatchers and thrushes went virtually unmentioned. Warbler reports were also way down, especially compared to last year. The weekend of 22-23 August produced a large share of the peak reports, early dates, and records of unusual species. The winter finches were either unmentioned or seen in very small numbers.



*Weather conditions at 7 a.m. on 22 August. The clockwise wind around the high pressure area and the counterclockwise winds around the low pressure area in Canada produced strong north winds for night migration of passerines toward Iowa. The front between the north winds and moisture laden south winds was over Iowa in the pre-dawn hours, causing the migrants to encounter rain (cross-hatched area) and stop migrating. These migrants were found by birders on the 22nd and 23rd.*

## UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Most of the unusual birds were water-related, and, like 1986, a small group of diligent observers in C Iowa made everyone else wish that they lived on the shores of Saylorville Lake. Accidentals included Brant, jaeger species, Great Black-backed Gull, Ancient Murrelet, Groove-billed Ani, and two Rufous Hummingbirds. If accepted, the murrelet and ani will be Iowa's first documented records. Reports of Pacific Loon and Clark's Grebe have been referred to the Records Committee. This season's casual species were Red-necked Grebe, White-faced Ibis, Black Scoter, Surf Scoter, Whimbrel, Black-legged Kittiwake, Burrowing Owl, Great-tailed Grackle, and House Finch. A report of Scissor-tailed Flycatcher from spring was also received. Some of these casuals will probably be classified as regular before long. Of the 18 species mentioned above, 8 were seen at Saylorville Reservoir. Exotic species included Chukar and Red-breasted Parakeet in Scott Co. and Ringed Turtle-Dove in Lee Co.

## SPECIES DATA

\* = documented

**Pacific Loon:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Common Loon:** Dates ranged from 29 Oct to 14 Nov with peaks of 47 at Saylorville Res. on 2 Nov (SD), 35 at Silver L., Worth Co., on 8 Nov (JLH, GZ), and 20 at L. Manawa on 11 Nov (BP, LPa). Birds were calling at L. Manawa on 31 Oct (BP, LPa).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** 30 at Montrose on 21 Aug built to a peak of 295 on 11 Oct (RCE); 15 were still in W. Iowa on 23 Nov (THK, RCE, FLM).

**Horned Grebe:** A bird in winter plumage at Oakland, Pottawattamie Co., on 16 Aug (\*SD) ties the earliest fall date. The peak was 31 at Saylorville Res. on 27 Oct (SD); birds remained at Rathbun Res. through the end of the period (RLC).

**Red-necked Grebe:** Birds in basic plumage were noted at Saylorville Res. on 1 Nov (\*SD, \*BEN) and 10 Nov (\*SD).

**Eared Grebe:** The only report was from Polk Co. on 7 Sep (HZ).

**Western Grebe:** The peak was 16 at Saylorville Res. on 27 Oct (SD). Other reports were 1 at Spirit L. on 14 Oct (DCH), 3 at Pickeral L. on 28 Oct (MMB), 4 at Trumbull L. on 11 Nov (MMB), and 3 at Saylorville Res. on 18 Nov (MP, BPR).

**Clark's Grebe:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

**American White Pelican:** The first were 15 at Forney L. on 4 Aug (TB); peaks were 350 at Rush L., Osceola Co., on 9 Sep (DCH), 1,150 at Saylorville Res. on 11 Sep (SD, ASF), and 200 at Ventura M. on 12 Sep (JLH); 2 at Black Hawk L. on 22 Nov (THK, RCE, FLM) tie the third latest.

**Double-crested Cormorant:** Peaks were 200 in Des Moines Co. (date not given), 210 at Coralville Res. on 27 Sep (THK), 1,400 at Saylorville Res. on 14 Oct (SD), and 156 at Rathbun Res. on 24 Oct (RLC).

**American Bittern:** 15 were at Big Wall L. on 19 Sep (SD, BBA). Record late birds were at Lakin Sl. on 14 Nov (RSe fide SD) and Forney L. on 21 Nov (\*SD).

**Least Bittern:** 5 were found at Big Wall L. on 16 Sep (MP, BPR, PhH) and 1 was at Zirbel Sl. on 21 Sep (JLH, AH).

**Great Blue Heron:** The largest number reported was 25 at Coralville Res. on 3 Oct (THK). This is a very low number for recent years.

**Great Egret:** Peaks were 50 in Des Moines Co. from mid-Aug to mid-Oct (CF), 80 at Big Sand Mound Preserve on 12 Aug (PCP, BBI), and 15 at Otter Creek M. on 17 Aug (MP); 1 at Rock Valley in NW Iowa on 13 Oct was unusual (DCH); and 12 at Montrose on 28 Oct (RCE) were the last.

**Snowy Egret:** A peak of 19 were at Riverton A. on 2 Aug (SD, BBA); others were 3 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 4 Aug (SD, EM) and a record late bird by nearly three weeks at Rathbun Res. on 18 Oct (RLC, yellow feet seen).

**Little Blue Heron:** 2 ad. and 11 imm. were at Riverton A. on 2 Aug (SD, BBA), and 5 imm. were at Forney L. on 15 Aug (BLW). Single immatures were in Des Moines Co. on 17 Aug (CF), at Big Wall L. on 19 Sep (SD, details), and at Hendrickson M. on 2 Oct (JF), the latter the second latest.

**Cattle Egret:** Only 4 were reported, a marked decrease from recent years. The last was at Saylorville Res. on 2 Nov (SD).

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** An imm. at Saylorville Res. on 8 Nov (\*SD) set a record late date (There are two winter records).

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** More yellow-crowned than black-crowned were reported with 3 ad. and 15 imm. at Riverton A. on 2 Aug (SD, BBA), 1 imm. at Coralville Res. on 23 Aug (THK), and 1 imm. at Big Wall L. on 13 Sep (SD).

**Ibis Species:** 2 were seen at Big Wall L. on 13 Sep (SD).

**White-faced Ibis:** A bird with white around the base of the bill and red legs at Saylorville Res. on 8 Aug (\*SD) is only the second fall ibis identified in Iowa by species.

**Tundra Swan:** Peaks at Pool 9 in Allamakee Co. were reported at 500 on 21 Nov (MP, BPR) and 300 on 22 Nov (FL); singles were at bit unusual in WC Iowa at Black Hawk L. on 22 Nov (THK, RCE, FLM) and in NC Iowa at Rice L. on 29 Nov (JLH).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** 3 were at Saylorville Res. on 18 Nov (MP, BPR).

**Ross' Goose:** 1 at Rice L., Worth Co., on 4 Oct (JLH, RHow) provides a record early date; 3 were in Harrison Co. on 30 Nov (THK).

**Brant:** 1 caught at Red Rock Res. on 4 Oct (\*JJD) is reported elsewhere in this issue.

**Mallard:** Numbers were down at Saylorville Res. with only 3,000 on 30 Nov (BEN).

**Cinnamon Teal:** This species is rare and difficult to identify in fall, so a report without details must go unmentioned.

**American Wigeon:** A peak of 2,500 at Montrose on 11 Oct (RCe) is a large concentration for this species.

**Canvasback:** 9,000 at Montrose on 6 Oct (RCe) is not unexpected.

**Greater Scaup:** 2 females at Big Creek L. on 5 Oct identified by rounded head, large bill, and long wing stripe (\*SD) set a record early date; a flock of 4 were identified by long wing stripe at Black Hawk L. on 22 Nov (THK, FLM).

**Oldsquaw:** A female collected at Saylorville Res. on 24 Oct (SD) was displayed at the fall I.O.U. meeting and ties the second early date. At the same location 1 female was seen on 2 Nov and 2 were seen on 17 Nov (SD).

**Black Scoter:** This species is increasingly recognized as a fall migrant. Most are females and immatures, but males were recognized at Saylorville Res. on 28 Oct (\*SD) and De Soto N.W.R. on 11 Nov (RKM, details). A female at Badger Creek S.P. (EuA, EIA) and 2 females or immatures at Saylorville Res. (\*SD) on 25 Oct set a record early date. A peak of 6 were at De Soto N.W.R. on 31 Oct (\*SD) and 2 at Saylorville Res. on 14 Nov (\*BLW) were seen by many at the fall I.O.U. meeting.

**Surf Scoter:** This species made an impressive showing this fall with up to 6 at Lock and Dam 18 from 21 Oct to 1 Nov (CF, \*RCe), 2 at Clear L. on 26 Oct (JLH, TL), 1 at Saylorville on 26 Oct (SD, JJD) and 1 Nov (RKM) and 5 there on 11 Nov (RKM), 4 at Crystal L. on 28-29 Oct (JLH-one shot, SD, PCP), 4 at De Soto N.W.R. on 31 Oct (SD) with 3 there on 11 Nov (BPp, LPp) and 1 on 25 Nov (SD, ASF).

**White-winged Scoter:** This species was reported from nine locations with the first 2 in Des Moines Co. on 17 Oct (CF), the peak of 29 at Saylorville Res. on 28 Oct (SD), and the last 2 at Cardinal M. on 29 Nov (\*MDie).

**Common Goldeneye:** The first were at L. Manawa on 5 Nov (BPp, LPp).

**Bufflehead:** 2 at Big Creek L. on 7 Oct (MPp, BPp) are the second earliest.

**Hooded Merganser:** The peak was 23 at L. Macbride on 27 Nov (TJS).

**Turkey Vulture:** A late fledgling with a broken leg was found in Page Co. on 24 Aug (BLW). Also in Page Co., 63 roosted in one dead tree on 27 Sep (MS). The last was in Des Moines Co. on 6 Nov (CF).

**Osprey:** The first was at Bellvue on 20 Aug (PCP); the peak of 5 was at Rathbun on 26 Sep (RLC), and the last were at Sioux City (BH, JP) and Red Rock Res. (GJB) on 11 Oct.

**Bald Eagle:** An imm. was an early migrant in Cherokee Co. on 22 Aug (DBI); a peak of 34 were in Allamakee Co. on 21 Nov (MPp, BPp).

**Northern Harrier:** 1 was in Allamakee Co. on 1 Sep (FL).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** The peak was 10 on 7 Sep (MPp, BPp).

**Cooper's Hawk:** Only 6 were reported.

**Northern Goshawk:** Details were given for birds at Saylorville Res. on 2 Oct (SD, ASF), Badger Creek S.P. on 25 Oct (EIA), and Davis Co. on 29 Nov (FLM).

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** 1 was in Allamakee Co. on 21 Nov (BPp).

**Broad-winged Hawk:** An adult, apparently migrating, was in Iowa City on 11 Aug (THK) and 3 imm. were at Waubensie S.P. on 13 Aug (BLW). Peaks were noted on 20-22 Sep with the highest counts of 87 at Davenport on 20 Sep (BBI fide PCP) and 100 in Hardin Co. on 21 Sep (MPp).

**Swainson's Hawk:** A pair and an imm. were in Cherokee Co. in early Aug (Ron Spengler fide DCH); 2 ad. were at Saylorville Res. on 23 Aug (SD, PM); and 1 ad. and 1 imm. were at George Wyth S.P. near the nest site on 29 Oct (FLM).

**Red-tailed Hawk:** 1 Harlan's Hawk was in Lyon Co. on 9 Oct (DCH).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** 5 were in Story and Polk counties by 2 Oct (JF) and 3 were in Allamakee Co. on 3 Oct (RPB, CAB).

**Golden Eagle:** Immatures were at Hendrickson M. on 15 Oct (Betty Savage fide MPp, details) and Badger Creek S.P. on 30 Oct (\*RKM).

**Merlin:** There were seven reports from 12 Sep to 28 Nov. A "prairie morph" was noted in Lyon Co. on 18 Nov (DCH).

**Peregrine Falcon:** One should be penalized for going to a football game during fall migration, but Jim Fuller saw a Peregrine Falcon fly over Kinnick Stadium on 26 Sep during an Iowa game. There were 4 other reports from 19 Sep to 5 Oct.

**Prairie Falcon:** 1 was reported without details.

**Wild Turkey:** 12 in NE Mills Co. may have been from last year's stocking (BLW).

**Yellow Rail:** 1 found dead at the Cherokee fairgrounds on 20 Oct (\*DBI) is the second latest.

**Virginia Rail:** 6 were at Big Wall L. on 5 Sep (JSi) and singles were at Coralville Res. on 30 Sep (TJS) and Pocahontas Co. on 13 Oct (JC).

**Sora:** An estimated "1,000" were seen and heard at Big Wall L. on 13 Sep (SD); 1 seen and heard at Forney L. on 22 Nov (SD, BBa) provides a record late date (except for two winter records) and another shot at Lakin Sl. on 4 Nov (SD, RSe) ties the third latest.

**Common Moorhen:** 5 were at New Albin on 1 Sep (FL); 6 were at Big Wall L. on 5 Sep (JSi) with 1 still there on 16 Sep (MPR, BPr, PhH).

**American Coot:** Peaks were 15,000 at Montrose on 6 Oct (RCe) and 10,000 at Saylorville Res. on 21 Oct (BEn); 100 were still in Snyder Bend P. on 23 Nov (THK, RCe, FLM).

**Sandhill Crane:** 2 ad. were in Polk Co. on 1 Nov (SD).

**Black-bellied Plover:** 1 at Riverton A. on 6 Aug (MPR, et al.) ties the third earliest; 3 in Des Moines Co. on 13 Nov are the third latest (CF).

**Lesser Golden-Plover:** 15 in Des Moines Co. on 26 Aug with scattered sightings to 14 Oct (CF) were the only reported.

**Piping Plover:** 1 juv. was at IPL Ponds until 15 Aug (BPa, LPa); 1 of the summering birds at Oak Grove Beach at Saylorville Res. remained to 5 Sep (BEn), a record late date; 1 was also reported from Des Moines Co. on 29 Aug (CF), the second latest date.

**American Avocet:** There were scattered sightings at Saylorville Res. with 1 on 14 Aug (SD), 7 on 30 Aug (BEn), 7 on 21 Sep (SD), 1 on 5 Oct (SD, RSe), and 17 on 5 Nov (JSi, SD), the latter the third latest; 8 were in Des Moines Co. on 19 Oct (RCe).

**Greater Yellowlegs:** The last were at Credit Island on 6 Nov (PCP, MLP).

**Lesser Yellowlegs:** The peak was 30 at Riverton A. on 4 Aug (TB).

**Willet:** Singles were in Des Moines Co. on 9 Aug and 5 Sep (CF), the latter a third latest; 2 were at IPL Ponds on 13 Aug (TB, BPa).

**Upland Sandpiper:** 5 were at Lamoni on 2 Aug (Dale Moon fide JDG) and 6 were in Fremont Co. on 15 Aug (BPa, LPa).

**Whimbrel:** Singles at Riverton A. on 1-2 Aug (\*SD) and Polk Co. on 3 Sep (\*SD) are only the second and third fall sightings for this species in Iowa.

**Hudsonian Godwit:** 3 were reported at Riverton A. on 4 Aug (TB).

**Ruddy Turnstone:** Singles were at Saylorville Res. on 8 Aug (EIA, et al.), Des Moines Co. on 9 Aug (CF), Riverton A. on 13 Aug (TB, et al.), and Saylorville Res. on 26 Sep (SD), the latter the third latest; 4 were in Polk Co. on 5 Sep (MPR, DT, GP).

**Sanderling:** The peak was 18 at Saylorville Res. on 6 Sep with 1 still there on 24 Oct (BEn).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 16 at Red Rock Res. on 13 Nov (\*THK) are the second latest.

**Western Sandpiper:** 1 juv. was at Red Rock Res. on 27 Sep (\*SD).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** 1 with white rump seen in flight was at Riverton A. on 6 Aug (JF). Another report gave no details for this rare fall migrant. It would be nice to know whether the few fall records in Iowa are of juveniles or adults.

**Baird's Sandpiper:** reports were of 1 at Credit Island on 12 Aug (PCP, BBI), 1 at Saylorville Res. on 30 Aug (JSi), 4 at IPL Ponds on 13 Sep (BPa, LPa), and 3 at Big Creek L. on 28 Oct (SD, details), the latter a second latest date.

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** The peak was 130 at Colo on 5 Sep (HZ); 1 at Big Creek L. lingered to 29 Nov (SD), a record late date.

**Dunlin:** 3 at Big Creek L. on 27 Nov (SD, details) were the third latest.

**Stilt Sandpiper:** The peak of 10 was at Riverton on 4 Aug (TB) and at IPL Ponds on 13 Sep (BPa, LPa); the last were 3 at Big Creek L. on 7 Oct (MPR, BPr).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** An incredible 257 were at Riverton A. on 2 Aug (SD, BBa); singles were reported from Dallas Co. on 19 Aug (RKM) and Polk Co. on 6-7 Sep (MPR, et al.).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** 1 juv. was at Coralville Res. on 23 Aug (THK, details).

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** 1 went "eek" at Riverton on 15 Aug (BLW). Record late birds were 3 at Red Rock Res. on 13 Nov (\*THK) and 1 at Big Creek L. on 19 Nov (\*SD); but they were in basic plumage, so identification is presumptive based on date. The Red Rock birds were too far out to look for retained juvenile feathers and the Big Creek bird uttered an inconclusive "pip."

**American Woodcock:** 1 was at Fairfield on 7 Oct (Terry Hartman fide DP).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** 6 were in Polk Co. on 5 Sep (MPR, DT, GP).

**Red-necked Phalarope:** 1 was at Cone M. on 23 Aug (THK) and 9 were in Polk Co. on 6 Sep (MPR, BPr).

**Jaeger species:** An imm. dark jaeger was seen at Saylorville Res. on 27 Oct (\*SD).

**Franklin's Gull:** The first was at Riverton A. on 6 Aug (JF); the peak of 6,500 was at Saylorville Res. on 1 Oct (SD, BBa); and single first-year birds lingered at Red Rock Res. on 24 Nov



(THK, RCe, FLM) and at Saylorville on 29 Nov (SD). One at Credit Island on 1 Nov was considered unusual on the Mississippi R. (PCP, MLP).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 1 at Badger Creek L. on 8 Aug (EIA, EuA) set a record early date. The peak of 572 was at Saylorville Res. on 2 Nov with 62 still there through on 29 Nov (SD).

**Ring-billed Gull:** Numbers were down due to the warm fall with peak expected after the end of the period.

**Herring Gull:** 1 was at Keokuk on 21 Sep (RCe). Few were down by the end of the period.

**Great Black-backed Gull:** An first-winter bird was at Saylorville Res. on 7 Nov (\*SD).

**Black-legged Kittiwake:** Immature birds were described at Saylorville Res. on 25 Oct-2 Nov (\*SD, \*PM, \*RKM) and 29 Nov (\*SD).

**Caspian Tern:** Peaks were 134 at Saylorville Res. on 11 Sep (SD, ASF) and 75 at Lock and Dam 19 on 21 Sep (RCe); the last 10 were at Keokuk on 2 Oct (RCe).

**Common Tern:** 4 were at Saylorville on 14 Aug (SD, details).

**Forster's Tern:** The last were singles at Keokuk on 2 Oct (RCe) and at Rathbun Res. on 24 Oct (RLC).

**Least Tern:** 5 were in Fremont and Mills counties on 6 Aug (JF), 1 at Pacific Junction on 13 Aug (BPa, LPa), and 2 at IPL Ponds on 15 Aug (TB, BPa, LPa).

**Black Tern:** The peak was 174 at Keokuk on 18 Aug (RCe) and the last was a basic plumaged-bird at New L. on 30 Aug (BH).

**Ancient Murrelet:** A bird at Crystal L., Hancock Co., on 28 Oct (\*JLH) will be a first state record for this rare midwestern vagrant if accepted by the Records Committee.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** 2 were feeding recently fledged young at Laurens on 18 Aug (JC).

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** The last was at Grammar Grove on 26 Sep (MPR).

**Groove-billed Ani:** Iowa's first well-described ani was found by Darwin Keonig and seen by many from 19 Oct to 25 Nov (\*DK, plus 12 other documentors and photographers).

**Common Barn-Owl:** A nestling was seen in a barn near Red Oak on 14-15 Aug (EIA, EuA, DT, RKM); 1 was near Polk City on 17 Aug (SD).

**Snowy Owl:** The first were singles on 15 Nov in Butler Co. (Ruby Buck fide SD) and Woodbury Co. (John Kentner fide BH); 8 other reports, all from W and C Iowa, are the most for fall in over five years and suggest a major invasion year.

**Burrowing Owl:** The birds that apparently nested near Mason City this summer were still present in August with 2 adults and 3 young on the 17th (MPR, BPR) and adults and 1 young on the 23rd (\*JJD). This is the most easterly breeding record in Iowa.

**Long-eared Owl:** 5 were at the traditional Big Creek S.P. site on 14 Nov (BPR).

**Short-eared Owl:** 2 were with the Long-eareds at Big Creek S.P. on 14 Nov (BPR); 4 were near Lamoni on 22 Nov (JDG); and 3 were in Cherokee Co. on 27 Nov (MMB).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** The first was 1 on 14 Oct at Grammar Grove (MPR); another returned to Iowa City on 22 Nov and was present through the end of the period (JF, TJS).

**Common Nighthawk:** No big flights were reported; the last was at Fairfield on 23 Sep (DCP).

**Chimney Swift:** A nest site in the Fairfield high school chimney had 263 birds on 2 Aug. On 15 Aug, apparent migrants raised the number to 1,372 and by 28 Aug the number swelled to 3,800. By 11 Sep, this diminished to 1,300 and the last was seen over town on 11 Oct (DCP). Another roost in Ames had 6,000 birds on 29 Sep and 1,015 on 16 Oct with the last 18 there on 22 Oct (SD).

**Rufous Hummingbird:** An adult male was at St. Olaf from 29 Jul to 3 Aug (\*LS, photo). Could it have been the same bird that was at this location last summer? Another male photographed in Clear Lake on 18 Aug was described as lethargic compared to Ruby-throateds (RA). If accepted by the Records Committee these will be Iowa's second and third records.



*Rufous Hummingbird, Clear Lake, 18 Aug 1987.  
Photo by Ronald D. Andrews.*



*Snowy Owl, Sioux City, 18 Nov 1987.  
Photo by Randall D. Williams.*



**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** The peak was 4 in Lee Co. on 22 Sep (RCe).

**Northern Flicker:** The peak was 28 on 26 Sep in Appanoose Co. (RLC); a "pure red-shafted" bird has been present since last winter near Booneville (EIA, EuA).

**Pileated Woodpecker:** 1 was at Grammar Grove on 13 Aug and 14 Oct (MPR); another was in Des Moines on 29 Nov (EIA, EuA, DT).

**Olive-sided Flycatcher:** The first was 1 on 16 Aug in Lee Co. (RCe); the peak was 5 on 30 Aug through 7 Sep in Appanoose Co. (RLC); and the last was 1 on 14 Sep in Des Moines Co. (PCP).

**Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** Details were given for 1 on 10 Aug in Davenport (PCP), the second earliest record; 4 were described at Grammar Grove on 22 Aug (MPR, BPR); the last was "very yellow all over, especially belly" on 28 Aug in Iowa City (THK). Other than these, very few empidonax of any kind were reported this fall.

**Western Kingbird:** Only singles were reported in first half of Aug from W Iowa.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** 1 on 29 Apr in Marshall Co. was described by Georgia Bryan ("fide JJD).

**Purple Martin:** 600 were in Sioux City on 19 Aug (BH, JP) and 200 were still there on 1 Sep (JJ).

**Tree Swallow:** Compared to the thousands reported last year, no significant numbers were reported this season.

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow:** A flock was present at the Sioux City wastewater plant all fall and 1 that stayed until 25 Oct ("BL, photo) is the latest on record by 9 days.

**Cliff Swallow:** 500 were at Hendrickson M. on 21 Aug (HZ).

**Barn Swallow:** A single (probably also lonely) bird at Red Rock Res. on 13 Nov ("THK) was still present on 21 Nov when it was seen occasionally landing on the ice ("FLM). This is the latest record by 11 days.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** The peak was 5 on 11 Nov in Cherokee Co. (DBI) and 21 Nov in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

**Brown Creeper:** 1 was seen near the summer nest site on 19 Aug at Huron Is. in Des Moines Co. (PCP).

**Carolina Wren:** This species has been increasing since 1983 and this year there were reports from 5 counties in E and C Iowa.

**Winter Wren:** The first were 2 on 19 Sep in Pine Hill Cemetery, Davenport (PCP); only 2 others were reported.

**Sedge Wren:** 1 on 14 Oct at West Okoboji was "late for this location" (DCH).

**Marsh Wren:** 3 were at Dunbar Sl. on 7 Nov (RSe fide SD, details), and 2 were at Big Wall L. on 11 Nov (SD, details). These are the second and third latest records for fall.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** The peak was 15 on 4 Oct in Lee Co. (RCe); the last was 1 on 21 Nov in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

**Eastern Bluebird:** The "best luck ever" in Cherokee Co. with 264 birds fledged from 374 eggs in 68 successful boxes (MMB); "a tremendous increase over last year" with 256 banded on Sac Co. area trails (RE); 35 migrants were seen in Appanoose Co. on 12 Sep (RLC).

**American Robin:** 100 were at Hendrickson M. on 19 Sep (HZ).

**Northern Mockingbird:** 1 was seen near a nest site at Big Sand Mound Preserve on 12 Aug (PCP, BBI); the only other reports were from Mills (BLW) and Appanoose (RLC) counties.

**Water Pipit:** The first were 2 on 30 Sep at Coralville Res. (TJS); the last was 1 on 27 Nov at Big Creek S.P. (SD, details).

**Cedar Waxwing:** 22 in Boone Co. on 2 Oct (SL) was the only report.

**Northern Shrike:** Good detail was provided for 1 adult on 18 Oct at Saylorville Res. (SD), tying the second earliest record arrival date; also early was 1 near Booneville on 20 Oct (EIA, EuA); others were 1 on 7 Nov at Big Creek S.P. (BEn), 1 on 13 Nov at Ledges S.P. (JJD), 3 in WC Iowa on 22 Nov (FLM, THK, RCE), and 2 in Plymouth Co. on 28 Nov (BL).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** 3 birds including juveniles were at Lamoni on 3 Aug (JDG); 2 were in Lyon Co. on 13 Oct (DCH).

**White-eyed Vireo:** 3 were still at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 7 Sep (RLC).

**Yellow-throated Vireo:** The peak was 5 in Lee Co. on 28 Aug (RCe).

**Red-eyed Vireo:** 20 on 29 Aug in Lee Co. (RCe) was the only report of this species which is often recorded in large numbers in fall migration.

**Blue-winged Warbler:** The last was 1 on 28 Aug in Iowa City (THK).

**Golden-winged Warbler:** 1 on 12-13 Aug at Grammar Grove (MPR) is the third earliest arrival.

**Tennessee Warbler:** No significant numbers were reported for this usually abundant fall migrant.

**Orange-crowned Warbler:** The first were 2 on 7 Sep at Grammar Grove (MPR, BPR).

**Nashville Warbler:** No reports of more than single birds.

**Chestnut-sided Warbler:** The peak report was 6 on 23 Aug at Grammar Grove (MPr).

**Cape May Warbler:** The first and peak was 9 on 23 Aug in Ames (SD, PM); 3 were in Liscomb on 5 Sep (MPr, BPr); 1 on 24 Oct in Davenport (BBI fide PCP) is the second latest; 1-2 were reported from 5 other C and E Iowa counties.

**Black-throated Blue Warbler:** This was one warbler that made a good showing this fall. In Boone Co. 2 females were seen on 5 Sep (JSi, SD, ASF) and 4 birds (2 male, 2 female) were there on 12 Sep (SD, BBA); 1 on 7 Sep near Perry was observed through a picture window (RKM); a male near Iowa City on 26 Sep was also seen in a backyard (JF), as was another male in Marshall Co. on 18 Oct (Betty Savage fide MPr); yet another male on 31 Oct in Fairfield (\*DCP) is the third latest.

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** 1 on 23 Aug in Iowa City (\*THK) and another on the same date in Ames (\*SD, PM-details) are the second earliest arrivals on record; 100 were at Coralville Res. on 3 Oct (THK) and 146 were counted the next day in Lee Co. (RCe).

**Black-throated Green Warbler:** Reported in very small numbers.

**Blackburnian Warbler:** 1 on 13 Aug at Grammar Grove (MPr) ties the second earliest.

**Pine Warbler:** 1 on 24 Aug at Ledges S.P. (\*RKM) ties the earliest date; there was a good movement of 19 warbler species on this day (RKM). Details were submitted for 1 on 3 Sep in Davenport (PCP).

**Palm Warbler:** The peak was 4 on 26 Sep at Coralville Res. (THK).

**Bay-breasted Warbler:** Very few reported.

**Blackpoll Warbler:** The first was 1 on 29 Aug at Grammar Grove (MPr).

**Black-and-white Warbler:** The peak was 6 on 22 Aug at Grammar Grove (MPr, BPr).

**Prothonotary Warbler:** 2 were seen on 20 Aug near a Jackson Co. nest site that had been timbered in late July (PCP).

**Ovenbird:** The peak was 5 on 30 Aug at Grammar Grove (MPr, BPr).

**Northern Waterthrush:** 1 on 5 Aug at Saylorville Res. (SD-details, PM) is a record early date by a day.

**Kentucky Warbler:** 1 was still at Ledges S.P. on 30 Aug (JSi).

**Connecticut Warbler:** Excellent details were submitted for 1 on 23 Aug at Grammar Grove (MPr, BPr), a third early date. This species migrates up through Florida in spring and up across the central U.S. It is much rarer in the fall because it leaves the breeding areas and goes east to the Atlantic Coast before turning south, generally bypassing the central U.S.

**Mourning Warbler:** Singles reported from Marshall, Lee, and Boone counties.

**Hooded Warbler:** 1 immature or female on 23 Aug at Grammar Grove (\*MPr) and 2 males seen 300 yards and 40 minutes apart in Lee Co. on 29 Aug (RCe) are among a handful of fall records of this species. Iowa is on the northwest edge of this species' range and the few that summer (breed?) here usually sneak out without being seen in the fall.

**Wilson's Warbler:** 1 on 18 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC) ties the third latest.

**Canada Warbler:** The peak was 5 on 22 Aug at Grammar Grove (MPr, BPr).

**Yellow-breasted Chat:** The last was 1 on 20 Aug in Lee Co. (RCe).

**Summer Tanager:** The last was 1 on 31 Aug in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

**Scarlet Tanager:** The peak was 4 on 7 Sep at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (RLC); the last was 1 on 30 Sep at Coralville Res. (TJS).

**Rose-breasted Grosbeak:** A first-year male lingered until 18 Oct in Hardin Co. (JSi).

**Blue Grosbeak:** The only reports were from the usual Fremont Co. haunts until 15 Aug (BLW, BPa, LPa).

**Dickcissel:** 1 was still near Booneville on 14 Oct (EIA, EuA).

**Rufous-sided Towhee:** A bird of the western spotted race was seen in Warren Co. on 28 Nov (Ann Johnson fide JSi).

**Chipping Sparrow:** The peak report was 25 in Johnson Co. on 3 Oct (THK).

**Clay-colored Sparrow:** The only reports were 1 in Pine Hill Cemetery, Davenport, on 10 Sep (PCP, BBI) and 3 in Liscomb on 4 Oct (MPr).

**Feld Sparrow:** 1 was still singing in Plymouth Co. on 28 Oct (BL); another was at Fairfield on 1 Nov (DCP).

**Savannah Sparrow:** The peak was 9 at Rathbun Res. on 18 Oct (RLC).

**Henslow's Sparrow:** 1 was heard and seen near Elston, Greene Co., on 6 May (Tom Rosburg fide JJD).

**Le Conte's Sparrow:** Widely reported in very small numbers; the first was 1 at Snake Creek M. on 22-23 Sep (EIA, et al.); the last was 1 on 8 Nov at Saylorville Res. (BEn, SD, JSi). Other reports were from Johnson, Marshall, Warren, Dallas, and Appanoose counties.

**Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** 1-2 birds were seen on 5 or 6 trips to Snake Creek M. from 21 Sep into early Oct (RKM, EIA, EuA); 2 more were at Coralville Res. from 27 Sep to 3 Oct (\*THK, \*TJS).

**Fox Sparrow:** The first was 1 on 4 Oct in Muscatine Co. (PCP, BBI).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** 2 were in Appanoose Co. on 18 Oct (RLC).

**White-throated Sparrow:** The first was 1 on 12 Sep at Grammar Grove (MPR); the peak was 87 on 11 Oct in Lee Co. (RCe).

**White-crowned Sparrow:** 2 immature birds on 26 Sep at Coralville Res. (THK) tie the third earliest. There seemed to be an early movement of sparrows on this date (THK).

**Harris' Sparrow:** The peak report was 5 on 18 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

**Lapland Longspur:** The first were 6 on 4 Oct in Muscatine Co. (BBI); in contrast to the large numbers reported the last four fall seasons, the peak report this year was only 200 on 14 Nov in Des Moines Co. (CF).

**Snow Bunting:** Also reported in small numbers beginning with 3 on 7 Nov at Saylorville Res. (BEn).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** 8 were singing at L. Macbride on 3 Oct (THK); another was also in song on 25 Oct in Jasper Co. (RLC).

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** The last report was 3 on 7 Sep at the IPL Ponds (BP, LPA).

**Rusty Blackbird:** Details were given for 2 females on 1 Oct in Story Co. (SD), one of the earliest fall records; peaks were 100 on 6 Nov in Lee Co. (CF) and 150 on 8 Nov at DeSoto N.W.R. (BP, LPA).

**Brewer's Blackbird:** 2 birds were found at Rathbun Res. on 21 Nov (RLC).

**Great-tailed Grackle:** Reported only from SW Iowa with 4 on 6 Aug in Mills Co. (JF) and 1 male on 22 Nov at Forney L. (SD, BBa).

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** A bird described as 95% albinistic was in with a flock of its normal plumaged brethren in Black Hawk Co. on 31 Oct (FLM); that would be hard to miss!

**Northern Oriole:** This species occasionally lingers into January; 1 was still eating oranges and jelly near Iowa City on 30 Nov (JF). More unusual was a bird near Maysville, Scott Co., on 21-22 Nov exhibiting features of a Bullock's type oriole (\*PCP).

**Purple Finch:** Reporters saw only very small numbers, if any.

**House Finch:** They almost certainly nested in Cerro Gordo Co.; beginning on 23 Aug, up to 4 young birds, still with some downy feathers, visited a Mason City feeder. At least 6 other birds frequented the same feeder through 23 Nov (JLW). Other reports of 1-2 birds came from Dallas, Des Moines, Marshall, Jefferson, and Story counties. They are certainly nesting at a number of locations. The novelty is starting to wear off.

**Red Crossbill:** This is the only winter finch that made any kind of showing with 30 in Clinton on 24, 31 Oct (PCP), 5 in Story Co. on 5 Nov (Linda Zaletel fide HZ), and 4 the next day at Pine L. (MPR).

**Common Redpoll:** The only mention was of 1 on 27 Oct in Boone Co. (SL).

**Pine Siskin:** The peak was 16 on 18 Oct in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

**Evening Grosbeak:** Only 2 reports: 1 female on 22-24 Oct in Sioux City (BH, WL) and 2 on 21 Nov in Marshall Co. (Betty Savage fide MPR).

## CONTRIBUTORS

(\* = documentation only)

Ron Andrews (Clear Lake); Eloise Armstrong (Booneville); Russell P. Baldner (Calmar); \*Carl J. Bendorf (Iowa City); \*Neil Bernstein (Cedar Rapids); Dick Bierman (Cherokee); Gordon J. Brand (Newton); Tanya Bray (Omaha, NE); Marion M. Brewer (Cherokee); Judith Carlson (Laurens); Robert Cecil (Keokuk); Raymond L. Cummins (Centerville); \*Mark Dietzenbach (Ft. Atkinson); James J. Dinsmore (Ames); Steve Dinsmore (Ames); Rita Efta (Auburn); Bery Enggebretsen (Johnston); Charles Fuller (Burlington); James Fuller (Iowa City); Lucille Gaffney (Swaledale); J. Donald Gillaspay (Lamoni); Douglas C. Harr (Larchwood); James L. Hansen (Clear Lake); Bill Huser (S. Sioux City, NE); Jack Jones (Sioux City); Thomas H. Kent (Iowa City); \*Darwin Koenig (Montezuma); \*N. A. Kubik (Tama); Sharon Laub (Rippey); Fred Leshner (La Crosse, WI); Bob Livermore (Sioux City); Paul Martsching (Ames); Francis L. Moore (Waterloo); Robert K. Myers (Perry); Babs Padelford (Bellevue, NE); Peter C. Petersen (Davenport); Diane C. Porter (Fairfield); Beth Proescholdt (Liscomb); Mark Proescholdt (Liscomb); Jim Sinclair (Indianola); Marie Spears (Shenandoah); Thomas J. Staudt (Iowa City); \*Larry Stone (St. Olaf); \*Jan L. Walter (Mason City); Barbara L. Wilson (Hastings); and Hank Zaletel (Colo.).

## OTHER OBSERVERS

Eugene Armstrong (Booneville); Cathryn A. Baldner (Calmar); Bart Ballard (Cedar Rapids); Brian Blevins (Davenport); Beth Brown (Osceola); Andrew S. Fix (Ames); Jan Greer (Omaha, NE); Alan Hancock (Clear Lake); Phyllis Harris (Union); Ron Howing (Wallingford); Wayne Livermore (Sioux City); Erik Munson (Ames); Lois O'Gara (Omaha, NE); Loren Padelford (Bellevue, NE); Gale Pederson (Des Moines); Mary Lou Petersen (Davenport); Jerry Probst (Sioux City); Steve Richards; Roger Sedlacek (Ames); Dennis Thompson (Des Moines); and Guy Zenner.

## COMMENT:

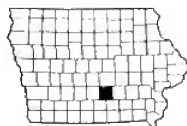
All reports were received by 5 December. This timeliness was extremely helpful and much appreciated. There is certainly an increasing awareness of early and late dates. As noted in the text, most of the sightings with record early or late dates were supported by full documentation or substantiating details. This aspect of the reports was much improved over last year. I left out several record dates due to lack of any detail or description.

The volume of material was noticeably less than last fall. A total of 735 sightings from 47 contributors were entered into a computer database and summarized in this report. There were 60 documentations. This was a little more than half of the sightings entered last year from 11 fewer contributors and less than half as many documentations. Most of the regular contributors had shorter reports this year. This may reflect less field activity or more selective reporting.

The database program used for entering, sorting, and printing the sightings was the latest version of one developed over the past few years by Tom Kent. He has spent many dozens of hours in writing and refining the program to allow rapid entry of sightings using abbreviations for species, locations, and observers. The program also flags unusual dates and neatly prints out an easy-to-read listing from which the Field Reports can be written. Tom also assisted in writing part of the report and I am grateful for all of his help. Please send me your suggestions for improving the report and corrections of names, dates, and places.

## BRANT AT RED ROCK RESERVOIR

JAMES J. DINSMORE



On 4 October 1987, Tom Miller of Des Moines and a friend were hunting geese on the south shore of Red Rock Reservoir near the Whitebreast Recreation Area in Marion Co. At 11 a.m., as they were picking up their decoys, they saw a small goose flying toward them. To their amazement, the bird landed among their decoys within a few feet of them. Miller immediately recognized the bird as a Brant and held his fire. The bird swam close to them for several minutes, then flew weakly to the shore and eventually was caught by the hunters. Miller realized the bird was unusual for Iowa and notified Jennifer Lancaster, Conservation Officer for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, to whom he gave the bird. Lancaster contacted me and the next morning I met her at the Polk City Wildlife Area, a non-hunting refuge just east of Saylorville Reservoir, where we photographed and released the bird.

The release site is about 45 miles northwest of where the bird was originally found.

The bird was roughly Mallard-sized and was mostly brownish-gray on the upper body parts and light gray on the undersides. The head and neck were black with only the faintest hint of a white necklace. The black extended down on to the upper breast and then was sharply separated from the lighter colored belly region. When the wings were extended, three distinct light-colored lines extending through the secondaries and their coverts were evident. This combination of characteristics led me to identify it as an immature Brant of the Atlantic subspecies. It was similar in plumage to a Brant shot at De Soto N.W.R. in 1980 (Dinsmore, Dinsmore, and Dinsmore 1981). The bird was alert and easily swam away from us when we released it. Its breast felt somewhat thin, and the droppings in the box that held it were green, suggesting that it might have been in the early stages of lead poisoning. Steve Dinsmore and Roger Sedlacek saw it at the release site later that day but, to my knowledge, it has not been seen since.

This is the third record of a Brant in Iowa. One was shot at De Soto N.W.R. on 2 November 1980 and a black Brant was shot 5 miles north of Riverton Area on 18 November 1983 (Kent 1983). All three records are of immatures from fall. On the chance that this bird might have been captive-reared, I contacted Howard Reneaud of Bondurant, who raises a variety of waterfowl. He knows of no one in Iowa who kept Brant.

I reviewed all issues of *American Birds* from 1977 to present covering the fall season of 1976 through winter 1986-1987. Over that time I found a total of 76 records of Brant from the following states: Ohio (24), Michigan (14), Illinois (10), Indiana (7), Minnesota (5), Wisconsin (5), Kansas (4), Iowa (2), North Dakota (2), South Dakota (2), Missouri (1), and Nebraska (0).

Seasonally, 55 of the records were from fall, 15 from winter (including some that carried over from fall), 8 from spring, and 3 from summer. The fall migrants were distributed as follows: September (3), early October (4), mid-October (3), late October (10), early November (8), mid-November (17), and late November (2).

From these data, I conclude that Brant is fairly regular in parts of the Midwest, especially in states bordering the Great Lakes in fall. Although the Red Rock bird was relatively early, it was not exceptionally so. There are records from 2 and 15 October in Illinois, from 7 and 16 October in Wisconsin, and from 12 October in Minnesota.

I appreciate the cooperation of Tom Miller, Jennifer Lancaster, and Howard Reneaud.

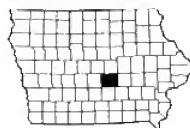
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# GROOVE-BILLED ANI IN JASPER COUNTY

DARWIN KOENIG



At 5:30 p.m. on 19 Oct 1987, I flushed a Groove-billed Ani from a patch of prairie vegetation in the Jacob Krumm Wildlife Area in Jasper Co. The bird was foraging on the ground among the prairie grasses when it flushed and flew to a low tree branch about 20 feet from where I was standing. The ani was observed for about 20 minutes at distances of 10 to 300 feet.

It was approximately the size of a Common Grackle with all black plumage, long floppy tail, and a thick puffin-like bill. The ridge of the upper mandible was slightly lower than the crown of the head and did not curve sharply downward to meet the forehead (unlike the Smooth-billed Ani which has a high-ridged upper mandible, higher than the crown and curving sharply downward to meet the forehead). I did not notice any grooves on the bill during my first observation, but did on later observations. The ani was subsequently seen by numerous observers and photographed. It was still present at the area on 25 November.

This is the third known record of an ani in Iowa. Musgrove (1948) reported on a specimen of a Groove-billed Ani in a private collection in Osceola Co. A Smooth-billed Ani was reported on 22 Oct 1966 from Cedar Rapids (Brown 1971). Both of these records were lacking in details and were later listed as Ani species (Dinsmore et al. 1984).

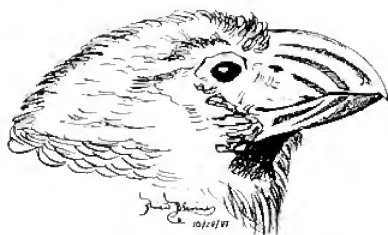
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Box 389, Montezuma, IA 50171



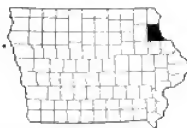
*Groove-billed Ani, Jacob Krumm Wildlife Area, 22 October 1987. Photo by Bob Myers.*



*Drawing by Brian Blevins.*

## ANOTHER RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD IN CLAYTON CO.

LARRY STONE



When a strange looking hummingbird visited our feeder in St. Olaf on 10-11 July 1986, I at first tried to dismiss the bird as an atypical Ruby-throated, but we later documented it as the first Rufous Hummingbird for Iowa (Stone 1986).

When another Rufous Hummingbird (perhaps the same one as last year?) came to St. Olaf this year, we were able to identify it immediately. This distinctive adult male bird had rusty-bronze plumage on its back, tail, and head. The contrast with the emerald-green Ruby-throateds that also use the feeder was obvious. The gorget was bright, and more orange than on Ruby-throateds and this bird also seemed plumper.

The Rufous was first seen about noon on 29 July, and was last observed about 8 a.m. on 3 August. It apparently visited the feeder periodically for nearly five days, although we were gone part of the time and were unable to keep detailed records. Usually the bird came to a sugar-water feeder a few inches outside a kitchen window, within easy viewing distance of people seated at a table inside. Frequently the Rufous perched in a honeysuckle bush near the feeder, or in an arborvitae tree several yards away. It was relatively tame allowing people to approach to within 15 feet. Assuming the bird was the same one that we saw in 1986, we'll be watching in anticipation of its return in 1988!

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Stone, L. 1986. Rufous Hummingbird in Clayton County. *Iowa Bird Life* 56:121-122.

Box 68, St. Olaf, IA 52072



*Rufous Hummingbird, St. Olaf, 30 July 1987. Photo by Larry Stone.*



## REVIEW

### *WISCONSIN BIRDS: A SEASONAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL GUIDE*

Stanley A. Temple, and John R. Cary. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press. 1987. 364 pp. Hardbound \$27.50. Paperbound \$9.95.

REVIEWED BY JAMES J. DINSMORE

This different kind of state bird book resulted from a research project sponsored by The Wisconsin Society for Ornithology. From 1982 to 1986, 431 volunteers kept weekly records (22,829 in all) of species observed. The authors compiled the data by computer to produce the book.

Three types of information are provided for 265 species: (1) Relative abundance (percentage of volunteers who found the species each year during the five years) is graphed at the top of each species account and quickly shows the rarity of a species (e.g., American Crow 100%, Red-throated Loon 5%). (2) Distribution is shown by one or two range maps—one for summer and permanent residents or two for migrants and birds with seasonal variation. The maps indicate frequency (four levels of shading) and distribution by 43 regions (one or several counties each). (3) Seasonal occurrence is shown on two graphs (for northern and southern Wisconsin) that plot the percentage of observers who saw each species during each week of the year and expresses the likelihood of seeing a species at a given time of the year, and, for many species, shows migration times. For 98 rare species not included in the species accounts, all records from 1975 to 1985 are listed in the back of the book by county and month.

The introductory text explains the methodology of the project and tells how to use the book. The species accounts contain no text. Arrival and departure dates are not given but can be inferred from the graphs. There is no specific information on nesting other than summer range maps.

Two things stand out about this book. (1) The data, with the aid of computers, literally wrote the book, allowing the authors to publish it in less than a year after the last data were collected. (2) The project is a superb example of how much amateurs can contribute to a well-organized project. The results will be useful to Wisconsin birders for years. Careful readers can find hundreds of nuggets of information such as the following: Wisconsin birders are more likely to see a Ruffed Grouse than a Red-eyed Vireo; Wisconsin's 6 Black-throated Sparrow and 12 Tricolored Heron records should make birders wonder why these species have not been recorded in Iowa; only 14 species have relative abundance values of 100%.

The graphic presentation makes the book easy to use, but specifics are lost in the mathematically manipulated data. The authors point out the pitfalls of comparing abundance data between species on the range maps due to the way the data were manipulated. Presumably, the long-awaited book on Wisconsin birds in preparation by Samuel Robbins will fill the more traditional niche for a state bird book. Until then, Temple and Cary have provided a wealth of data on Wisconsin birds and a model of data collection for others to contemplate.

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